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Air Force Awards \$1.2 Million to Ascension for Further Development of phasorBIRD™

BURLINGTON, VERMONT: April 2, 2007 – Senator Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) has announced that Ascension Technology Corporation has been awarded a second contract from the United States Air Force for the continued development of phasorBIRD, Ascension's advanced optical tracking technology. phasorBIRD enables pilots to aim weapons, acquire mission-critical information, and receive self-protection prompts by looking at a target through a graphical icon superimposed on the pilot's visor. It accomplishes this purpose faster and more accurately than any other helmet tracker in the world.

The Air Force contract for \$1.2 million will move phasorBIRD's four-phase development program into phase two and a step closer to a flight test of the device in a tactical aircraft. The first phase, funded through a \$910,000 contract begun in 2006, has focused on reducing the system's complexity and cost while improving performance. The second phase will focus on integrating the tracker with a helmet-mounted display and testing its performance in an aircraft on the ground.



Ascension President Ernest Blood, left, briefs US Senator Patrick Leahy on his company's latest developments in high resolution tracking technology. Ascension's phasorBIRD is a *dual use* optical tracker judged best in its class by *R&D Magazine* and the U.S. Air Force. In addition to its military target acquisition role, phasorBIRD will be used for 3D localization and guidance in medicine.

Senator Leahy's support of the phasorBIRD program has been essential to Ascension in securing Air Force funding. As a leading member of the Appropriations Committee, Senator Leahy sits on its Defense Subcommittee, which handles the Senate's work in writing the annual Defense Department budget bill, including the Air Force's budget.

"Ascension Technology remains on the cutting edge of this important project to protect our pilots from harm in the field," said Leahy. "This Vermont company is finding effective and cost efficient ways to move forward with the innovative phasorBIRD tracking technology, helping our pilots fulfill their important missions."

In addition to phasorBIRD's cutting-edge military applications, the technology presents exciting applications for emerging medical imaging systems. Positioning patients for targeted radiation therapy and fusing imaging modalities for improved procedural vision are perfect candidates for phasorBIRD. Jack Scully, Ascension's Vice President for New Business Development, said: "We remain grateful to Senator Leahy for his strong support in advancing phasorBIRD to meet high performance standards in challenging missions. Ascension is proud to be in the vanguard of 3D tracking technology with **dual use** applications for military and medical establishments."

Ascension Technology Corporation (Burlington, Vermont, USA) makes magnetic, optical, inertial and hybrid head tracking devices for use in real-time visualization, military, and medical applications. For more information, visit www.ascension-tech.com.

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